

Message Text

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ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-07

DODE-00 L-03 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /041 W

----- 022878

R 181539Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2963

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15301

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, GW

SUBJECT: LAWS GOVERNING FIREARM IMPORTATION

REF: (A) STATE 177789, (B) STATE 205916, (C) BONN

2004, 2/8/73

THE QUESTION RAISED IN REF (A) ARE ANSWERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. AN IMPORT LICENSE FOR THE COMMERCIAL IMPORTATION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION IS REQUIRED WHEN THE IMPORTER IS NOT, REPEAT NOT, IN THE POSSESSION OF A PERMIT ALLOWING THE MANUFACTURE, REPAIR, AND TRADE IN FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION.
2. LICENSES, IF REQUIRED, ARE ISSUED BY THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES OR THE COUNTY POLICE.
3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMERCIAL CONSIGNEES FOR OBTAINING AN IMPORT PERMIT, (OR TRADE PERMIT, RESPECTIVELY), ARE MAINLY PERSONAL INTEGRITY, GOOD REPUTATION, AND EXPERT KNOWLEDGE (EVIDENCED BY PASSING AN EXAMINATION), AND ADEQUATE STORAGE FACILITIES.
4. CONTROL AFTER IMPORTATION IS EXERCISED AS FOLLOWS: THE CUSTOMS OFFICES WILL INFORM THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (COUNTY POLICE OR MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION) IN THE DISTRICT IN WHICH THE IMPORTER/DEALER HAS HIS SEAT OF BUSINESS, OF EACH IMPORTATION, FURNISHING INFORMATION ON CON-

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SIGNEE AND CONSIGNER, TYPE, QUANTITY, AND IN CASE OF

FIREARMS, ALSO SYMBOLS AND NUMBERS.

5. THE IMPORTER/DEALER MUST ENTER FIREARMS IN A FIRE-ARM TRADE REGISTER (WAFFENHANDELSBUCH), AND AMMUNITION IN AN AMMUNITION TRADE REGISTER (MUNITIONSHANDELSBUCH). THE ENTRIES MUST SHOW MODEL, QUANTITY, ORIGIN, AND END-USE OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION.

6. IN ADDITION, THE IMPORTER/DEALER MUST LABEL,
A) IMPORTED FIREARMS CONSPICUOUSLY AND DURABLY WITH THE LOCAL DEALER'S NAME OR HIS REGISTERED TRADE-MARK, THE CALIBER, AND A SERIAL NUMBER.
B) THE RETAIL PACKAGE OF IMPORTED AMMUNITION WITH A SYMBOL IDENTIFYING THE MANUFACTURER, THE PRODUCTION SERIES, AND THE CALIBER. THE MANUFACTURER'S IDENTIFICATION SYMBOL AND THE CALIBER MUST ALSO APPEAR ON THE CASE. ALSO CONSIDERED AS "MANUFACTURERS" ARE THOSE IMPORTERS/DEALERS IN WHOSE NAME THE AMMUNITION IS SOLD AND WHO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT THE AMMUNITION MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW.

DEALERS IN FIREARMS ARE ENTITLED TO SELL FIREARMS ONLY IF PROPERLY MARKED, AND AMMUNITION, IF SPOT CHECKS HAVE REVEALED THAT THE AMMUNITION CARRIES THE MANUFACTURER'S SYMBOL, UNLESS THEY ARE EXEMPTED FROM LABELING REQUIREMENTS, E.G. ANTIQUE WEAPONS (MANUFACTURED BEFORE 1871), FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION DESTINED FOR EXPORTATION, AMMUNITION DESTINED FOR THE MILITARY, THE CUSTOMS ADMINISTRA-

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TION, THE POLICE, ETC.

7. WHILE WHOLESALE OR RETAIL GUN DEALERS ARE REQUIRED TO RECORD SALES IN ACCORDANCE WITH NO. 6, ABOVE, THEY DO NOT HAVE TO REPORT THEM (RECORDING IS AUDITED AT CERTAIN INTERVALS BY THE SUPERVISORY AUTHORITIES--COUNTY POLICE OR MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES). THE PURCHASE OF FIREARMS MUST BE REPORTED BY THE BUYER BY REGISTRATION WITH THE SAME AUTHORITIES.

8. INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN LICENSES (WAFFENBESITZKARTE AND MUNITIONSERWERBSCHEIN) FOR THE ACQUISITION OR POSSESSION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION, RESPECTIVELY. IF FIREARMS OR AMMUNITION ARE TO BE IMPORTED BY INDIVIDUALS, IMPORT LICENSES ARE ALSO REQUIRED. INDIVIDUALS WHO ALSO WANT TO CARRY FIREARMS NEED AN ADDITIONAL LICENSE (WAFFENSCHIEIN).

9. IN VIEW OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE LAW AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS ISSUED THEREUNDER, THE REPORT INCLUDES ONLY THE SKELETON PROVISIONS. IF MORE DETAILS ARE NEEDED, WE WILL GLADLY FURNISH COPY OF THE LAW AND ITS IMPLEMENTING ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS (IN GERMAN).
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, MUNITIONS CONTROLS, EXPORT LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BONN15301
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750324-0113
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750937/aaaabgfv.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION MC
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 177789, 75 STATE 205916
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAR 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAWS GOVERNING FIREARM IMPORTATION
TAGS: MILI, ETRD, GE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006